

Palm Beach and Treasure Coast communities. Though he will be sincerely missed in the newsroom, I wish him the best in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARRY BROWN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce an article entitled "Garry Brown will join a Hall of Fame that would be incomplete without him" that was published in the Springfield Republican on January 28, 2014. This tribute written by Ron Chimelis highlights the outstanding career of Garry Brown.

Garry has been a well-known and beloved sports writer in Western Massachusetts for over sixty years. Even after retiring, he still offers features and his famed column Hitting on All Fields, which he has written for the Springfield Republican for over forty years. Garry's passion and dedication to all sports in Western Massachusetts has earned him the admiration of his readers as well as his peers. As a result, Garry was inducted into the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame on Friday, January 31, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to congratulate Garry on this well-deserved honor and wish him the best in the future.

GARRY BROWN WILL JOIN A HALL OF FAME THAT WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT HIM

(By Ron Chimelis, The Republican)

He was born in the same year as Mickey Mantle, grew up watching Ted Williams and began his sports writing career when Joe DiMaggio was playing center field at Yankee Stadium.

Garry Brown was there at Busch Stadium in 2004, when the Boston Red Sox ended an 86-year World Series title drought. His encyclopedic knowledge of baseball's local history is unmatched.

It is not who he has covered or where he has been, however, that best defines Brown. It is how he is viewed by others who find themselves practically forcing well-deserved honors upon a man too humble to expect them.

One such honor will come Friday night. Brown is part of the seven-man inaugural class of the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame, which will hold enshrinement at the La Quinta Inn & Suites in Springfield.

No individual—not a player, manager or executive—has lived a life more interwoven with baseball's local history than Brown, who is still going strong at The Republican in Springfield.

Technically, he is retired. That has not stopped the 82-year-old from continuing to offer features, retrospectives, and live coverage of the Springfield Falcons.

He is still serving up "Hitting to All Fields," which has survived 40 years of seismic change in newspapers.

Achievements? Let's run down a few, sticking to baseball because the overall list is too long.

Brown was a high school beat writer from 1952-66, which he calls his favorite time. He covered Pittsfield's run to the 1960 state title and that summer's American Legion World Series, with a 15-year-old shortstop named Mark Belanger leading the way.

How about Chicopee High's three straight state titles from 1961-63? When fellow Hall of

Fame inductee Al Stanek struck out 25 and Amherst's Cliff Allen whiffed 16 in Chicopee's 1-0 tourney win in 1960, Brown was there.

He was the Red Sox beat writer from 1986 to June 2009, but also covered the World Series in 1967 and 1975. That was Brown, writing on deadline when Carlton Fisk's home run and Bill Buckner's error changed history.

Awards? A story on Carl Yastrzemski's final weekend made "Best Sports Stories of 1983." The American Legion's national award saluted his coverage in 1963.

In 2002, Brown was in his 52nd year of writing when he earned a New England award for columns. In 2003, the Boston Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America honored him with the prestigious Dave O'Hara Award, a prized honor that signifies recognition by one's peers.

The night was memorable. So was the acceptance speech by a man whose humility is rare for his field.

"I do get tired of people asking me if Cy Young was a nice guy," said Brown, who paused for effect.

"He was," the honoree said, drawing warm laughter and applause from the crowd. He won the Kid Gore Award for high school coverage in 1998. That's associated with basketball, but it's still a biggie.

When the Springfield Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame selected its inaugural class, the committee wanted badly to elect Brown as a contributor. He respectfully declined, saying the first year should be reserved for the athletes.

He was elected in the second.

He campaigned tirelessly for a return of minor league baseball to Springfield. Had it materialized, a popular public choice for the new ballpark's name over his objections was Garry Brown Stadium.

For the Western Mass. Baseball Hall of Fame, Brown was elected unanimously before he could say no.

Now in his seventh decade of service, Brown was asked about the attributes that made him a success.

"Not knowing when to quit," he said with typical self-effacing humor.

That knowledge, or lack of it, has been a blessing to his readers and made this region a much better place. The Western Mass. Baseball Hall of Fame would be incomplete without him, even if an ageless writer for all ages would never say so himself.

HONORING HAROLD PAYNE, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 3, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American and veteran of the Second World War, Harold Payne of Caddo Mills, TX, who passed away December 8, 2013 at the age of 92.

Harold was an extraordinary man in many ways. Born and raised in Caddo Mills, Harold was voted class president of Caddo Mills High School where he also captained several athletic teams. Harold attended college at East Texas State University and then served his country as a pilot, flying B-17 bombing missions over France and Czechoslovakia. He later became a founding member of the 390th Bomb Group Memorial Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

Harold was a successful businessman, owning and operating his own business, Payne's Famous Furniture Village, in Caddo Mills for 35 years. He was active in his community, serving on the board of the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum, the hospital board, the school board, Hunt County Fair Board, and bank board. He also served on the City Council for many years. He was a founding member of the Faith Bible Church, where he served on the board of elders.

Harold is a true American hero whose outstanding service to his country and community will be long remembered. I am proud to have known him as a personal friend, and he will be missed by his family and many friends. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great American, Harold Payne.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2642, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against the farm bill conference report because it represented a missed opportunity to enact necessary and long-overdue reforms. Supporters of this legislation claim \$23 billion in savings, but by setting commodity target prices at today's high prices, independent experts expect that as prices drop, this legislation would cost us more in the long run.

The bill does have some bright spots. The removal of the King amendment and the inclusion of language cracking down on animal fighting are victories for animal welfare. The SNAP cuts are not as draconian as the version that passed the House last year. I am thrilled that the amendment I worked on with Representatives POLIS and MASSIE easing restrictions on the cultivations of industrial hemp was included, which shows we are ready to look at hemp as an agricultural commodity, and not a drug. There are welcome investments in renewable energy and organics in this bill as well.

On the whole, however, the bill falls short of enacting necessary reforms, and maintains the pattern of cutting SNAP benefits for our most vulnerable while spending taxpayer dollars on wasteful agriculture subsidies. In Oregon alone, 78,000 households will face cuts to their nutrition assistance as a result of this bill, while simultaneously the bill adds to the already-bloated crop insurance program and creates even more subsidies that benefit large agribusinesses and encourage farmers to farm the system, not the land. It continues loopholes that allow one farm to claim multiple subsidy payments despite the fact that both the House and Senate passed farm bills eliminating these loopholes.

I am also disappointed that this legislation cuts overall funding for conservation programs, and fails to enact many important reforms that I have put forward in my legislation—the Balancing Food, Farm and the Environment Act of 2013—that would strengthen the conservation title. I was pleased to see the inclusion of language establishing conservation compliance, as well as enactment of a